

Application Serial No. 10/023,279
Amendment dated September 17, 2004
Reply to final Office action of June 4, 2004

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached six sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1-4, 12, 13, and 16. These Figs. 1-4, 12, 13, and 16 replace the Figs. 1-4, 12, 13, and 16 filed with the amendment of May 3, 2004. Figs. 1-4, and 16 have reverted to those filed originally, while second plate 10 has been removed and section view (b) or the corresponding section cut have been adjusted in Figs. 12 and 13.

Attachment: Replacement sheets (7)
Annotated sheets showing drawing changes (7)

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REMARKS

Claims 1 through 16 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 10 are amended herein. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found in the claims as originally filed. This amendment is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Entry is requested respectfully. Further reconsideration is requested based on the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Objections to the Drawings:

The drawings filed May 3, 2004 were objected to for introducing new matter. Figs. 1-4 and 16 have been placed back in their originally filed form. Since no objections were lodged against Figs. 1-4 and 16 in the Office action of February 3, 2004, placing them back in their originally-filed form is believed to address the objection with respect to these figures. Figs. 12 and 13 have been amended as well to remove second plate 10 and modify the sections. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is earnestly solicited.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112:

Claims 1 through 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claims 1 and 10 were amended to make them more definite in substantial accord with the Examiner's suggestions. The Examiner's suggestions are appreciated. The acronyms have been replaced with full names in claim 10 and in the specification.

Withdrawal of the rejection is earnestly solicited.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 1 through 16 contain allowable subject matter.

Conclusion:

Accordingly, since the objections to the drawings were addressed and the claims were amended to overcome the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, it is submitted that all of claims 1 through 16 are now allowable. Allowance of all claims 1 through 16 and of this entire application are therefore respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

By



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Attachments
2498-105-am2

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Annotated Sheet
Showing Changes

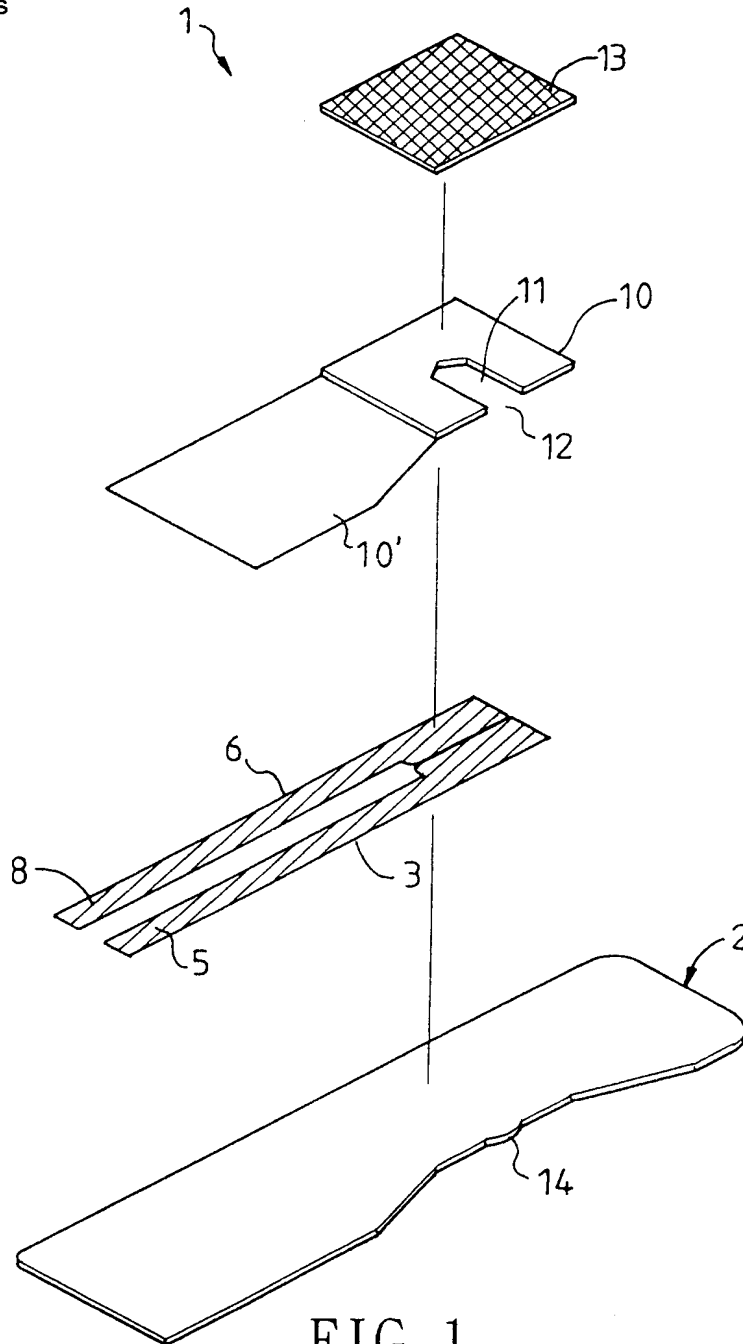


FIG. 1

AS FILED ORIGINALLY

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Annotated Sheet
Showing Changes

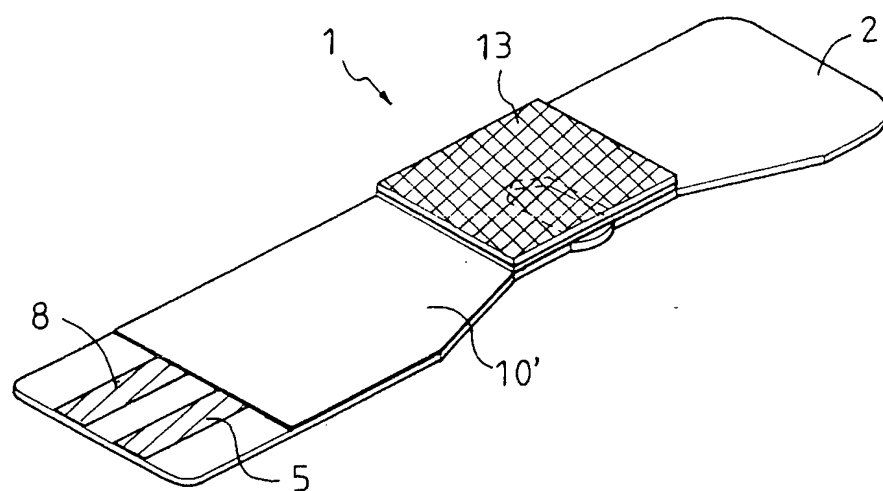


FIG. 2

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Annotated Sheet
 Showing Changes

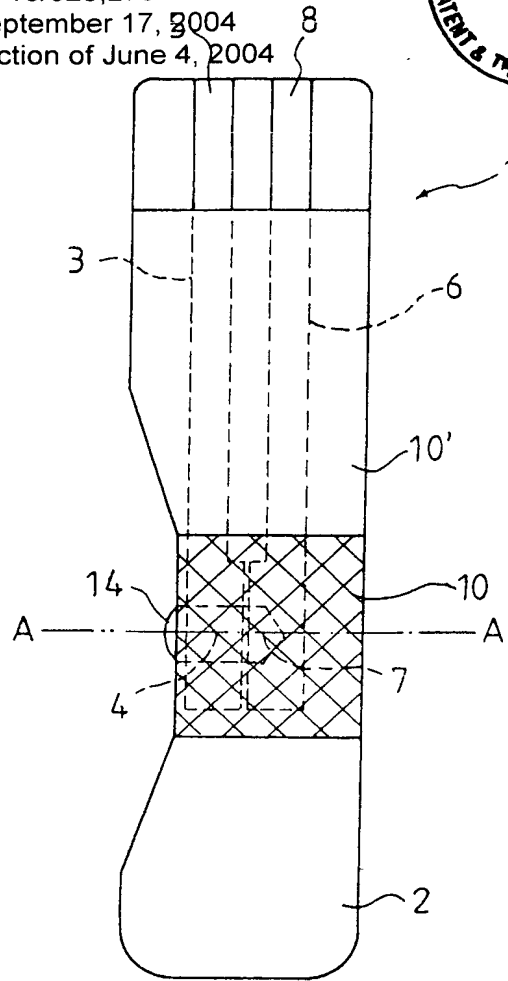


FIG. 3
 AS FILED ORIGINALLY

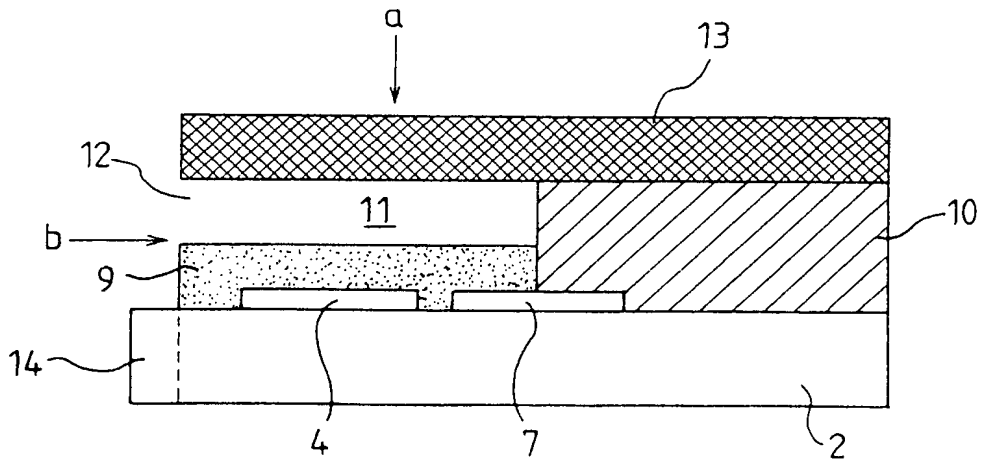


FIG. 4

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Annotated Sheet
Showing Changes

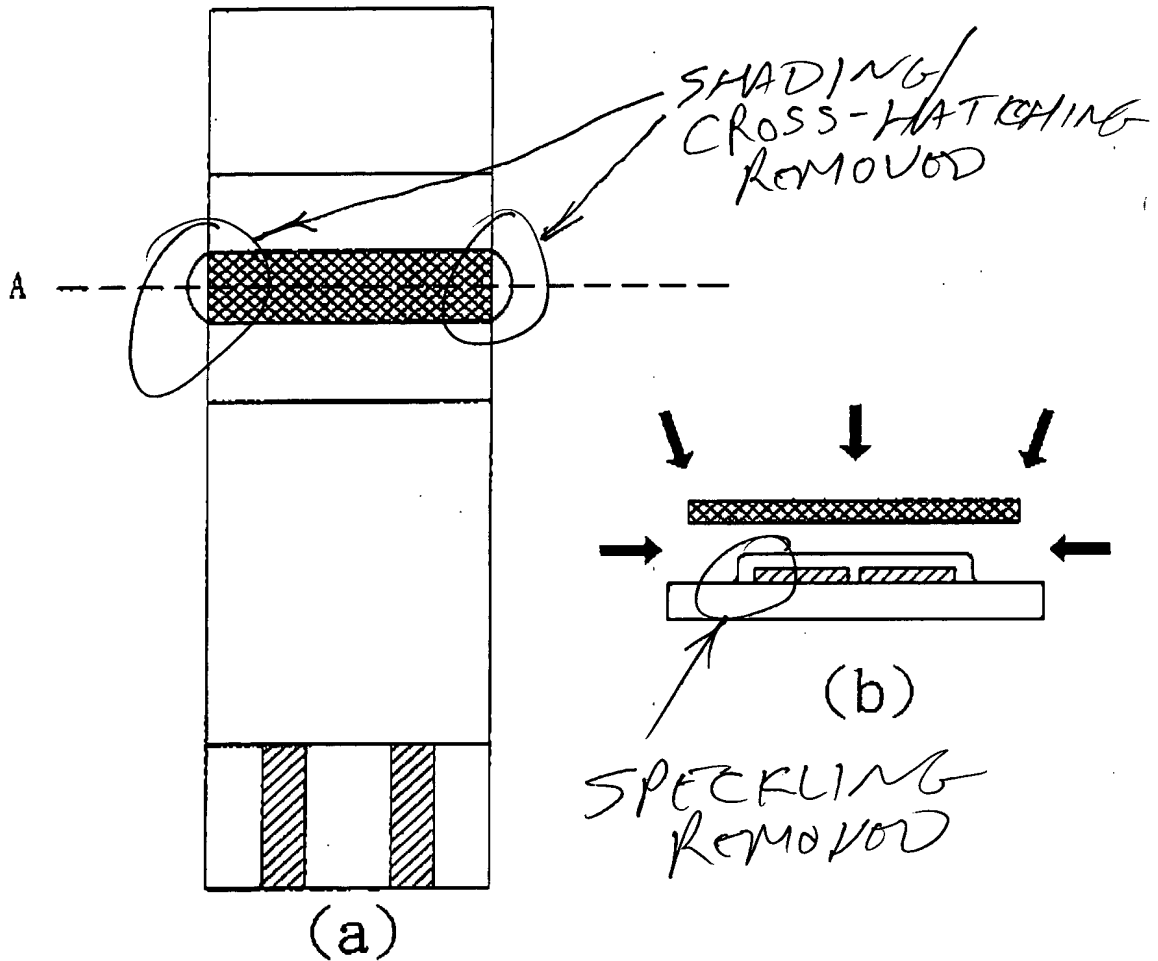


FIG. 12

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Annotated Sheet
Showing Changes

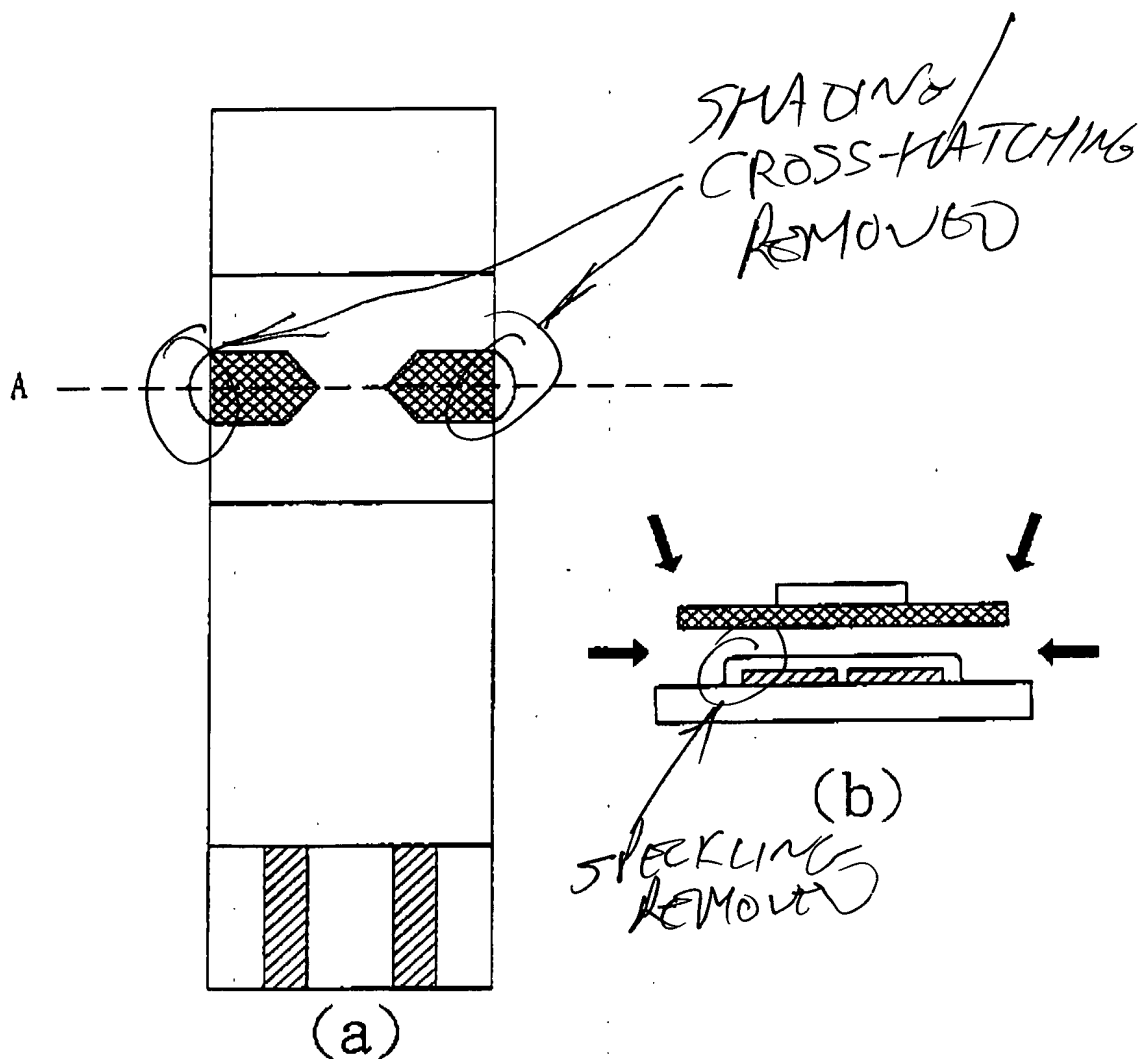
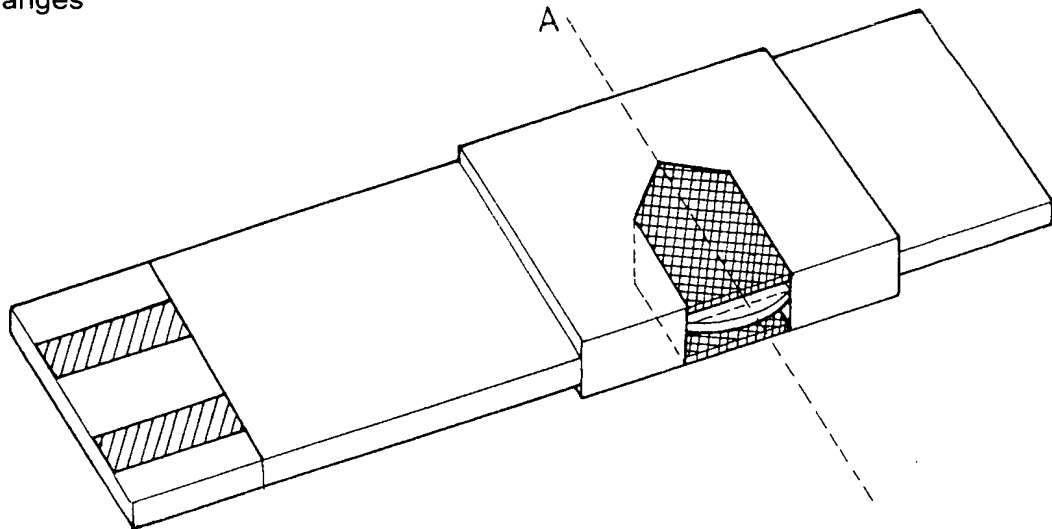


FIG. 13

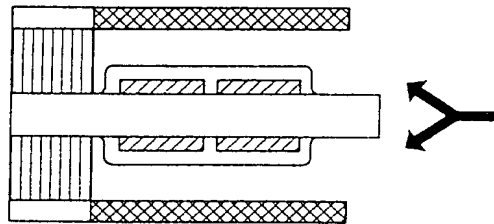
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Annotated Sheet
Showing Changes



(a)



(b)

FIG. 16

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Annotated Sheet
Showing Changes

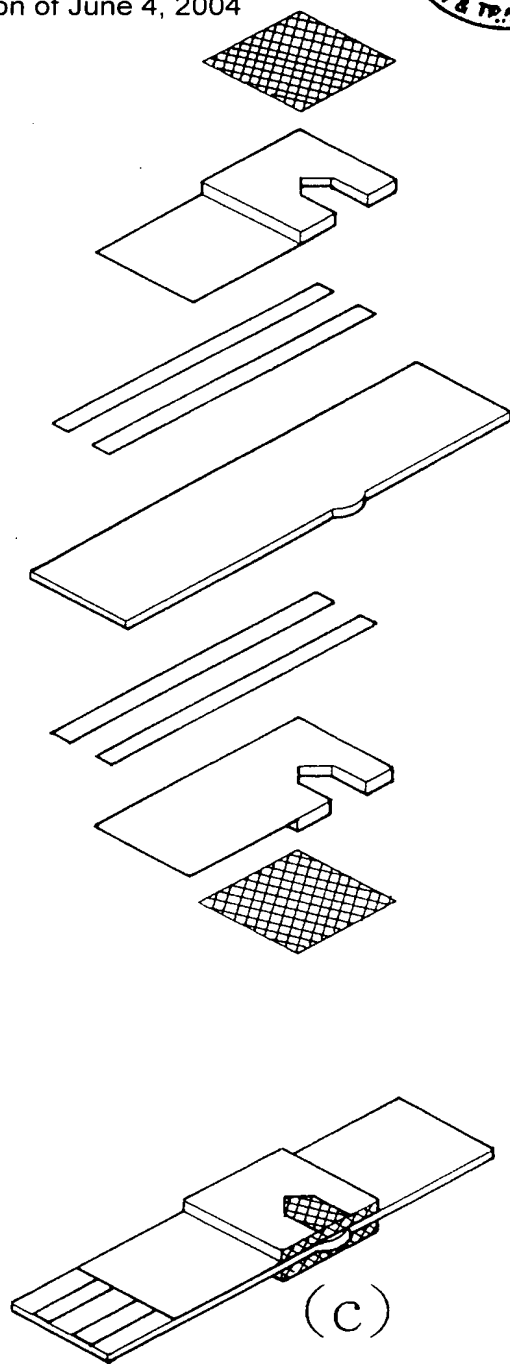


FIG. 16